



RTCA in California

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in California offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in California will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Atwater Village East Bank River Way** - The project goal is to create 4 miles of multiple use trails along the east bank of the Los Angeles River and enhancement of neighborhood access to the river. The project will contribute to the broader Los Angeles River Greenway efforts underway. (Location: Los Angeles, California)
- **California Native Plant Education** - The project goal is to develop a set of southern California native plant educational flash cards to assist local homeowners and landscape professionals in the selection, use, and care of habitat- and climate-friendly plant species. Information on the flash cards will be translated in both English and Spanish. (Location: Southern California)
- **El Cerrito Trails Wayfinding** - The project goal is to develop trail signage and wayfinding that improve public awareness and facilitate use of approximately 5-7 miles of trails and walkways throughout El Cerrito, including key linkages to adjacent open spaces and nearby transportation hubs. (Location: El Cerrito, California)
- **Feather River Recreation & Stewardship** - The project goal is to develop a publicly supported consolidated Feather River Master Plan guiding river recreation and stewardship improvements with community benefits. (Location: Oroville, California)
- **Firebaugh and Mendota Water Trail** - The project goal is to plan for 15 miles of water trail on the San Joaquin River from the State of California managed Mendota Wildlife Area to the City of Firebaugh. (Location: Firebaugh, California)
- **Healthy People, Healthy Trails, Parks & Open Spaces** - The project goal is to establish a pilot program serving approximately 200-300 people in the communities of Santa Maria and Lompoc in Santa Barbara County. The project will enhance 3-7 miles of existing trails to support a range of positive health outcomes. (Location: Santa Barbara County, California)



Restoration efforts and creek planting on the Lower Sausal Creek. Photo Credit – Jill Sunahara, Friends of Sausal Creek

- **Interpretive Strategy for the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District** - The project goal is to develop an interpretive planning guide that provides clear direction for District staff to interpret the physiographic, cultural and biological features of the District's properties. (Location: Greater Monterey Peninsula, California)
- **Latino Outdoors** - The project goal is to develop a strategic plan with vision, goals and strategies supported by extensive outreach and facilitated engagement of individuals and partners. (Location: Southern California)
- **Lower Sausal Creek Connections** - The project goal is to develop a greenway trail along Sausal Creek from its headwaters to the Oakland Estuary; raise awareness of the creek; make recreational connections; involve students and neighbors in activities such as field trips, restoration, gardening, art projects. (Location: Lower Sausal Creek Watershed)
- **Pinnacles Gateway Partnerships** - The project goal is to strengthen connections between the Pinnacles National Park and the communities for local economic and recreational benefits and better protection of park resources through stewardship and expansion of other tourism attractions and services in the region. (Location: San Benito and Monterey Counties, California)
- **Richmond Wellness Trail** - The project goal is to establish a two mile trail that features public art, health and wellness tips, interactive fitness stations and connections to local, regional, and national parks and recreation. (Location: Richmond, California)
- **Sacramento River Blue Trail** - The project goal is to create a detailed comprehensive guide for kayakers and canoeists on 150 miles of the Sacramento River from Redding to Colusa. (Location: Redding to Colusa, California)
- **San Gabriel Mountains Conservation Legacy** - The project goal is to expand access to recreation opportunities in the San Gabriel Mountains and foothills for the Los Angeles metropolitan region. (Location: Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, California)
- **Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway** - The project goal is to create a greenway that provides close-to-home recreation and open space; connectivity between neighborhoods, schools and services; a critical link in a regional non-motorized transportation corridor; and enrichment of the natural environment. (Location: Santa Rosa, California)
- **Take Me to the Park** - The project goal is to expand youth awareness and connections to national and local parks close to home coupled with enhanced eco-literacy and experience in a local stewardship project. (Location: Compton, California, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Cabrillo National Monument, Channel Islands National Park and Joshua Tree National Park, California)
- **UC Merced Trails** - The project goal is to identify a 4 mile loop trail around Lake Yosemite as well as 5-10 miles of trail connections to the city and county lands. (Location: Merced, California)
- **Waves to Wineries Trail** - The project goal is to establish a 30-mile recreational trail link connecting Temecula to Oceanside, following the Santa Margarita River corridor. (Location: Riverside and San Diego Counties, California)
- **Whittier Greenway Extension** - The project goal is to establish a 2.7 miles of multi-use trail which will extend the existing 4.5-mile rail-trail as part of a regional trail network. (Location: Whittier, California)
- **Youth Environmental Stewards** - The project goal is to create a holistic and complementary curriculum for youth environmental education and green job training programs managers using a collaborative approach. (Location: California - statewide)

Recent Success Story

Lake Tahoe Water Trail – Lake Tahoe partners have improved access to the lake for paddlers through a variety of enhancements including seasonal storage, kayak rentals, access improvements, and regional wayfinding and stewardship. Day trip maps beckon users of all abilities.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in California contact:

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